CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH ◭ VOL. LXVIII, ISSUE 68 | FEBRUARY 22, 2017

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH, LIBRARY

Daily 49er

Photos by Adam R. Thomas | Daily 49er

Cal State Long Beach students try on hijabs during "Islam Awareness Week" at an event hosted by the Muslim Student Association.

CAMPUS EVENT

HIJABS FOR HUMANITY

The Muslim Student Association challenges female CSULB students to wear a hijab for a day.

By Adam R. Thomas
Staff Writer

The Muslim Students Association was giving out free hijab headscarves at a booth near the Merchant's Row thoroughfare between the campus bookstore and the Psychology building Tuesday.

By the end of the event, over 100 people had attended and most of the hijabs had been handed out by the members of the MSA.

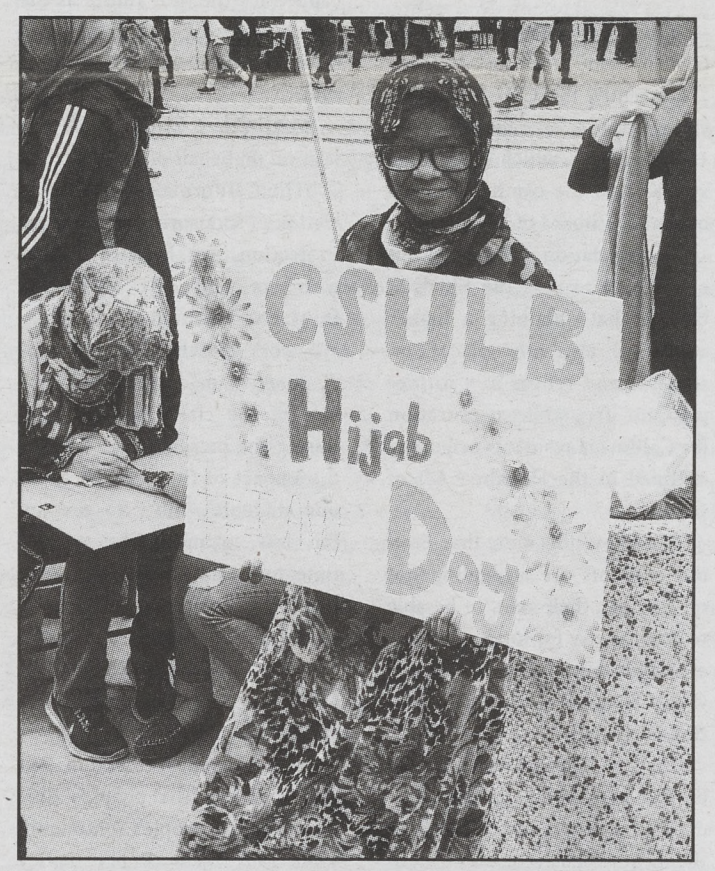
The giveaway was part of the "Islam Awareness Week", an annual event hosted by MSA. This year's theme was a "Hijabi Challenge" where the student religious organization challenges non-Muslim female students to wear a hijab for an entire day.

"Maybe 110 people have taken up the challenge and we ran out of stickers," said Hajer Rawag, the senior biology major that set up the event for the MSA. "It's been my favorite Hijab Day by far."

The local event is very similar to the larger World Hijab Day, normally celebrated by Islamic women on Feb. 1. As with the national event, the goal of the Hijabi Challenge was to let non-Muslim women experience what it is like to walk in their shoes and counter Islamophobia, according to Shaikh.

"By participating, it allows women to walk in the shoes of a hijabi," Shaikh said. "Women who try it for the day say that people treated them differently. Some people might not look them in the eye. Other people might have even said something."

see **HIJABS**, page 2



Smiles and signs welcomed over 100 attendees participating in "Islam Awareness Week" on Tuesday.

FINANCES

Tuition moratorium proposed through 2020

California Assemblywoman moves to protect students from further financial burden.

By Micayla Vermeeren
Editor in Chief

The general public was introduced to a tuition-freezing bill known as the Student Protection Act Tuesday morning at Sacramento State University. Written by Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva of the 65th district and sponsored by the California Faculty Association, Assembly Bill 393 proposes a four-year moratorium on systemwide tuition and student fee increases.

"The specific systemic problem we confront today is the long, gradual abandonment of the state's commitment to fund the CSU and other public higher education sectors," said Kevin Weir, a professor of sociology, president of the capital CFA chapter at Sacramento State University and associate vice president of CFA. "If the CSU had levels of funding comparable to what it was funded at in 1985, the people's university today would have an additional $773 million in its operating budget. "

Assembly Bill 393 proposes that tuition and statewide fees for CSU and California Community College campuses "not be increased from the amounts that were charged as of December 31, 2016, until the completion of the 2019–20 academic year," accord-

see **TUITION**, page 2

CAMPUS EVENT

Having 'The courage to act' like MLK

CSULB honors Martin Luther King Jr. with 18th annual celebration.

By Sol Mendez
Staff Writer

Cal State Long Beach held its 18th annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration this Tuesday in the University Student Union ballroom. The event honored King and his role in the civil rights movement throughout the 1960's.

This year, the CSULB American Indian Community Drum, led by professor and chair of American Indian Studies Craig Stone, opened the event with a performance.

"Our theme today, our collective commitment today, is the courage to act in this moment of history," James Sauceda, director of Multicultural Affairs, said. "This is the time for vigorous and positive action."

Each year, a theme for the celebration is chosen to outline the focus of the event. Last year, the title "Peace and Diversity" emphasized the importance of diversity and justice for all people. The topic this year, "The Courage to Act," focused on the change that students and the general community could have on the world.

"Not with violence, but with resistance," Sauceda said. "In order to face and fight injustice."

The celebration then continued with a few words from Maulana Karenga, chair of Africana Studies. Karenga gave a libation, or the pouring of a drink into a plant for all those like King, who fought for the civil rights of all people. He

see **MLK** page 2

Jade Inglada | Daily 49er

Sheila Sadr, CSULB Slam Team poet, recited two spoken word poems to conclude the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 18th annual celebration at the University Student Union ballroom Tuesday.

MLK

continued from page 1

also expressed his hope that people not forget those who also fought for justice but were never acknowledged in history.

Sauceda explained that King is often said to have expressed that non-violent resistance is "a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love."

"America has changed since I was here last year," said William Smart Jr., a local pastor who gave the keynote address. "I got my start in 1968 at the age of nine. A lot of things happened in 1968. In April of 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. A lot of things were going on."

He highlighted the value of the life of young people and the importance that their decisions and initiatives on important matters could have. "Somebody has to stand up right now," he said.

Smart highlighted his faith and continued to encourage the change that he himself attained through his religious beliefs and inspiration from King.

"My life changed again when Martin Luther King's teachings came into my life," he said. "... What you gonna be? What you gonna do? Are you gonna have the courage to act today or just sit there and do nothing? I want you to be freedom fighters."

A final poetry reading was given by CSULB Slam Team Poet Sheila Sadr. In her poem, she touched on the various similarities between the first ever-pixilated picture of earth and the all people in the world, saying, "The image of this pale blue dot is meant to inspire understanding."

HIJABS

continued from page 1

The hijabs at this year's event came in three purple shades. Members of the MSA demonstrated how to properly put the hijabs on for the women coming up to try them on. The MSA also handed out stickers and painted henna body art for those that were interested.

"A Hijab is a scarf that a Muslim woman wears," said Aliyah Shaikh a senior International Studies major and the Vice President of the MSA. "There are a lot of misconceptions about the hijab, that it is oppressive or that [women] are forced to wear them. The way the Muslim women here would articulate it is quite contrary to that. They would say that they choose to wear it so they're known for their minds and not their looks or their bodies."

Despite the connotations hijabs sometimes carry, students on campus still find pride in the expression of their culture – or appreciation in the opportunity to learn.

"I just saw everyone and they looked so empowered," said Gabriela Ochoa, a senior Liberal Studies major who received a free headscarf. "Wearing the hijab . . . it feels like you're connecting [to your community] and I wanted to be a part of that."

TUITION

continued from page 1

-ing to a press release emailed by CFA the same morning.

Currently, the CSU is considering a tuition hike for the 2017-18 school year, which is set to be voted on in the coming sessions of the CSU Board of Trustees.

The legislation was created out of a desire to ease the financial burden that obtaining a higher education currently places on students and return to a former plan for free college education for California residents originally outlined in the Donahoe Act of 1960.

"We know now more than ever, our students are struggling not only to pay their rent, to be able to work to pay for food and other essentials, but also go to college," Quirk-Silva said in her presentation of the bill.

Costs of tuition have increased by 923 percent in the last three decades, she said, which comprise the most expensive costs of higher education in state history.

"This moratorium will give students and their families peace of mind that the already high cost of higher education will be capped for the near future as the legislators works on long-term funding solutions," Quirk-Silva said.

Weir backed Quirk-Silva's legislation on behalf of faculty.

"The California Faculty Association is sponsoring the Student Protection Act because faculty members of the CSU are on the front lines of higher education. We work closely with our students every day, inside and outside of the classroom," he said during the presentation. "We see the impact of financial stress on our students' ability to prepare for class, to buy books, to have time to study – let alone their health and well-being."

In addition, AB 393 was touted as a way to give the students in California more legislative consideration.

"The Student Protection Act also connects the people's university to the people's sentiment," Weir said. "The Public Policy Institute of California recently reported that 70 percent of Californians across parties say they would be unwilling to increase student fees to fund higher education."

> "The investment in education is our investment in the future"
>
> *-Sharon Quirk-Silva, 65th district assemblywoman*

Weir and company believe that reducing the financial burden of higher education will increase student performance by reducing the number of hours they need to devote to work and make it more feasible to cover fees with financial aid.

The core foundation of the bill can be traced back to the Donahoe Higher Education Act, more commonly known as the master plan for higher education in California. In the plan, there are suggestions for how to best structure the three-tier education system of community colleges, CSUs and Universities of California and their respective pools of students and finances.

With the financial recessions of the early 2000s, though, the guidelines of the master plan fell by the wayside as privatization changed the function of colleges across the state. Finding a path back to the Act is high on Quirk-Silva's list of goals, but she knows that money is not the only influential factor in a student's educational experience.

"When I introduced this legislation, we knew there are many demands on the California budget. We know that there are housing and transportation issues ...," she said before noting that food insecurity and homelessness are also creating barriers between students and their educational career.

One in every 10 California students is homeless, while one in every five is food insecure, according to a recent study commissioned by the CSU system.

"The investment in education is our investment in the future," Quirk-Silva said.

got opinions?

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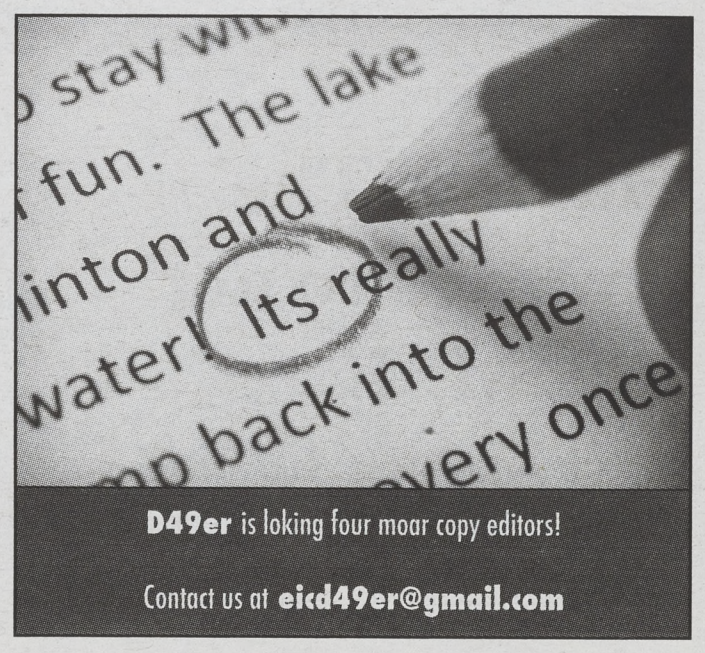

POLITICS

US judge rules in favor of Planned Parenthood

The controversial organization is protected under Medicaid.

By Chuck Lindell
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN, Texas – A federal judge Tuesday blocked Texas officials from ousting Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid health care provider, dealing another blow to Republican-led efforts to enforce stricter abortion-related regulations and policy.

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks of Austin said state health officials tried to punish Planned Parenthood based on "unsubstantiated and indeterminate allegations" in footage taken from an undercover video shot in 2015 by abortion opponents.

Nothing in the eight hours of video, and nothing presented in court by state health officials, provided evidence that Planned Parenthood had broken federal law, state law or Medicaid rules, Sparks ruled, concluding that Texas acted "without cause" to remove a qualified organization from the federal-state program that provides health care to low-income people.

"It appears the termination decision had nothing to do with (Planned Parenthood's) qualifications," Sparks wrote.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said he will appeal the ruling.

"Today's decision is disappointing and flies in the face of basic human decency," Paxton said in a statement. "Even the remains of the most vicious criminals are treated with respect. But the children who never had a chance at life become so-called medical waste or, alternatively, a commodity to be bartered for."

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>
> *-Ken Paxton, Texas Attorney General*

The case before Sparks focused on whether the video, shot by abortion opponents posing as specialists in tissue procurement for medical research, offered sufficient evidence of medical and ethical violations at a Planned Parenthood facility in Houston to justify ousting all 30 Planned Parenthood health clinics from Texas Medicaid.

During a three-day hearing in mid-January, Stuart Bowen Jr., inspector general for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, testified that he moved to oust Planned Parenthood on Dec. 18 because the video showed that clinic officials were willing to change how abortions were performed to better obtain fetal organs and tissue for use in medical research.

Such changes would violate federal law and accepted medical practices while putting women at greater risk, Bowen said.

But Sparks said the video featured "unclear and ambiguous dialogue" from a research director who had no personal knowledge of abortion procedures and who repeatedly referred specific questions to Planned Parenthood's abortion doctors.

"Most significantly, the inspector general admitted he had no evidence any (Planned Parenthood) doctor altered the medical procedure of an abortion, for research purposes or for any other reason, when he issued the final notice - nor did he have such evidence at the hearing," wrote Sparks, appointed to the bench in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush.

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Bill Clark | Congressional Quarterly | Newscom | Zuma Press

Pro-choice demonstrators at the U.S. Supreme Court cheer as they learn the court struck down the Texas abortion law on June 27, 2016 in Washington, D.C. U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks of Austin blocked Texas officials from ousting Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid health care provider on Tuesday, marking another win for pro-choice supporters.

Sparks also dismissed Bowen's allegation that the video showed a willingness to profit from procuring fetal tissue, a violation of federal law that allows only direct expenses to be reimbursed.

Bowen had no evidence Planned Parenthood "ever profited, or even sought to profit," from fetal tissue, Sparks said. "Specifically, the inspector general could not point to a single payment (Planned Parenthood) ever received that exceeded its expenses incurred," he wrote.

The judge also said that dropping Planned Parenthood from Medicaid could disrupt the health care for many of the 12,500 low-income Texans, mostly women, who get contraceptives and health care from the organization, which offers night and weekend hours other clinics don't.

Last year, Planned Parenthood affiliates in Texas received a combined $3.5 million in Medicaid reimbursements for health care that did not include abortions. Ninety percent of the Medicaid money came from the federal government, with the rest provided by Texas.

Sparks' ruling was another setback for abortion-related Texas regulations.

In a separate case last month, Sparks blocked Texas from requiring fetal remains to be buried or cremated, saying the rule placed an unacceptable burden on access to abortion, in part because a limited number of willing and available crematoriums could make it impossible for clinics to comply. Paxton said he also will appeal that ruling.

Tuesday's ruling comes almost eight months after the U.S. Supreme Court tossed out two Texas regulations, passed in the second of two tumultuous special legislative sessions in 2013, which would have left nine abortion clinics operating in the state. The ruling overturned rules requiring that abortions be performed in hospital-like surgical centers and that abortion doctors have admitting privileges in a nearby hospital.

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Universal Pictures

Matt Damon in "The Great Wall."

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Great Wall' blocks viewer enjoyment

Matt Damon's newest film nearly collapses upon itself despite its high budget.

By Ross Siev
Contributing Writer

The Great Wall – of China – is a fascinating construction of humanity's creativity and willpower is one of the great wonders of the world. The film? Not so much.

Matt Damon plays William, a mercenary looking for the Chinese invention of explosive black powder. Along with his partner-in-crime, Tovor (Pedro Pascal of "Game of Thrones" fame), they both stumble upon a secret Chinese military group defending the world from monsters.

Before the review kicks off, there's a problem about the elephant in the room: The casting of Matt Damon in a Chinese-made film, which raised controversy about whitewashing and having a white savior. The presumed views of his role as a "white savior" in the story was unwarranted since he portrays a selfish European mercenary who only comes to China to make a profit, and had no intention of fighting any monsters.

Moreover, the Chinese military ironically named "The Nameless Order" has efficiently held their own against the rampaging and intelligent beasts for centuries. William is indeed the hero who predictably saves the Chinese, but it was through the cooperation between him and the Chinese military that contradict the white savior claims.

Jing Tian, who will star in Legendary Entertainment's upcoming "Kong: Skull Island" and "Pacific Rim: Uprising," portrays Commander Lin Mae. She is the only prominent female character in the film, but serves more as a romantic interest and moral guidance to William.

Director Zhang Yimou is known for his visual fidelity when creating the Beijing Olympics opening and closing ceremonies, and in his martial art films "Hero" and "House of Flying Daggers." "Great Wall" showcases why he is still the best Chinese filmmaker in his country, but his talents were wasted on this film.

This was very much a film made for the Western audiences in mind, whereby Damon, Pascal and the upcomer Tian are put into the center, famous – and clearly more talented – Chinese actors are deregulated as side-characters. Tian in particular couldn't match up to veteran Chinese actors like Andy Lau and Zhang Hanyu, both of whom play as fellow commanders with minor screen presence.

The focus on the Western audience also means that the plot suffers from weak character motivations and dialogue. Every character is dumbed down to a simplistic degree, to the point of their motives being unexplained. For example, William's reason for transitioning from mercenary to fighter for the Nameless Order is lost without context.

William changes his mission from selfishly stealing black powder to helping the Nameless Order fight monsters for no apparent reason.

While the action was plentiful, there was nothing in particular that stood out as jaw-dropping other than the rich Chinese culturalism scattered throughout. There's a slight sense of disbelief when terrible CGI is involved in what is touted as the highest-budgeted Chinese film yet.

In all of its ridiculousness with regards to the plot and the random banter between William and Tovor, "The Great Wall" takes itself too seriously. Lin Mae explains that the monsters arrived to Earth (yes, that happens) because of an Emperor's greed. While it's relatable to William's and Tovor's quest for black powder, it didn't build-up upon their motivation. Instead, it's just tossed aside and not explored any further.

The Chinese direction to the designs, cinematography, and wackiness, make "The Great Wall" stand out against other action films made in the U.S.. Like a typical summer blockbuster, there isn't a whole lot of greatness with the plot or characters, and it lacks any standout scenes. However, it still remains enthralling throughout due to exciting set-pieces and visuals.

To quote British comedian Karl Pilkington, the film is "Not a Great Wall. It's an Alright Wall. The Alright Wall of China."

EVENTS

L.A. Zoo offers exclusive giraffe feedings

The interactive event is part of the zoo's 50th anniversary "ZooLAbration."

By Lola Olvera
Staff Writer

Have you ever been face-to-face with a giraffe as its 14-inch tongue slurped a leaf right out of your hand? Well, if not, now you have the chance.

Guests can now hand-feed Masai giraffes at the Los Angeles Zoo as part of an attraction that debuted this month.

The new interactive event, called Giraffe Feedings, is part of the zoo's yearlong 50th Anniversary "ZooLAbration."

Giraffe Feedings will now be available at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily, weather permitting.

Zoo Education Specialists will teach guests about Masai giraffes, which, at 16 to 20 feet, are the tallest land mammal on earth.

"It's an unforgettable experience that fosters a deeper connection to a species that needs our help," said Dan Keefe, Curator of Education at the zoo.

Declining Masai giraffe populations in Africa have led them to be classified as "Vulnerable" in December 2016 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

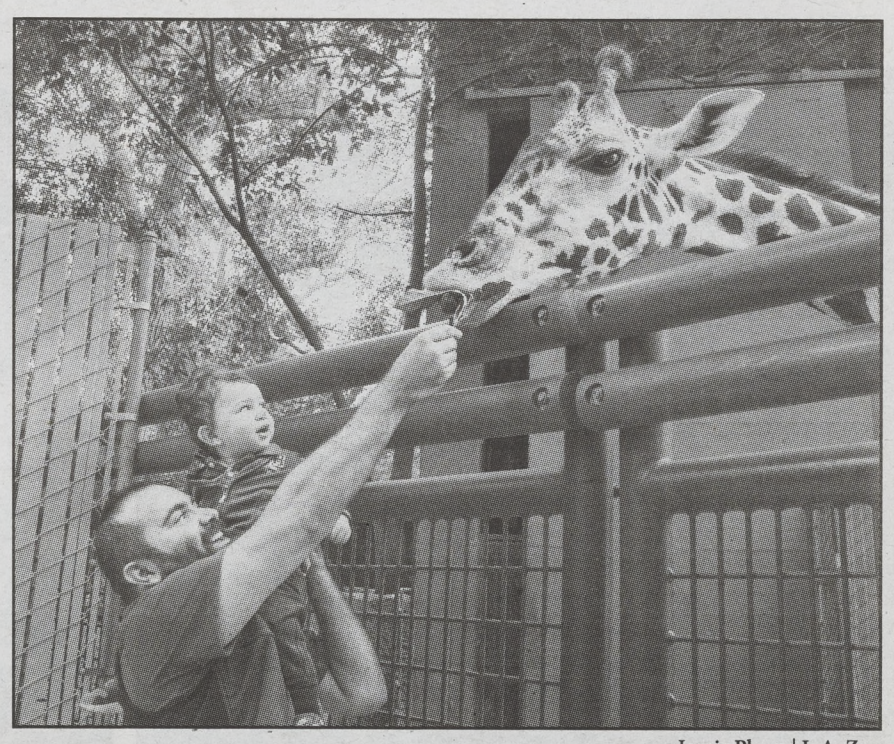
The L.A. Zoo is accredited by the non-profit Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Institutions accredited by the AZA help fund field conservation efforts to protect threatened animal species, and, according to the L.A. Zoo, "are uniquely positioned to provide information and insights on reproductive biology, behavior, nutrition, animal health and genetics that are invaluable to these efforts."

General admission to the L.A. Zoo is $20; senior admission is $17 and child admission is $15.

A general admission ticket gives guests access to the zoo's collection of 1,100 animals from 250 species and its botanical gardens, which feature around 7,000 plants from 800 different species.

Admission to the Giraffe Feedings at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. are an additional $5 cash payment per person shortly before start times.



Jamie Pham | L.A. Zoo

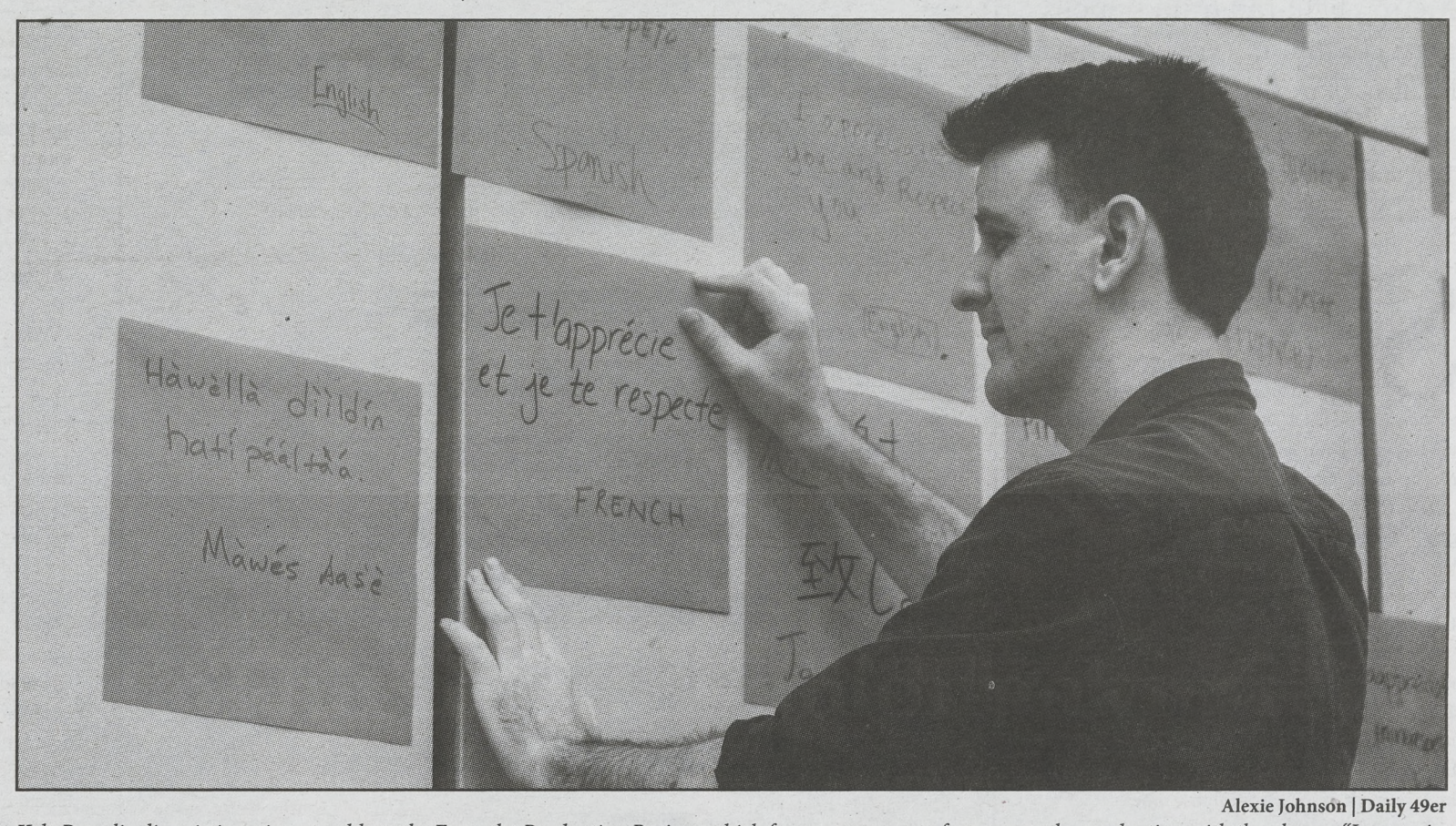
Zoo visitors have the opportunity to feed giraffes during "ZooLAbration."

CAMPUS EVENTS

Mother language day comes to CSULB

Linguistics department celebrates language diversity on campus.

By Zulema Suarez
Staff Writer



Alexie Johnson | Daily 49er

Kyle Petrulio, linguistic assistant, adds to the Empathy Production Project, which focuses on ways to foster empathy production with the phrase, "I appreciate and respect you" in all the languages spoken in CSULB community.

If you walked by the Psychology quad around noon on Tuesday, you might have noticed a huge crowd of people playing games, taking quizzes and hanging posters on walls. If you listened closely, you probably heard many of the people speaking different languages to one another.

The reason behind all of this was to launch the first ever celebration of International Mother Language Day at Cal State Long Beach. The event was organized by the Linguistics Student Association in partner with "I appreciate and respect you" Linguistic Landscaping, launched by Linguistics Department Chair Alexandra Jaffe and Director of American Indian Studies Craig Stone.

International Mother Language Day has been recognized since 1999, and celebrated worldwide since 2000. On campus, the event was sponsored by language and language-related departments like anthropology, American Indian studies and American Sign Language.

The celebration consisted of presentations and posters focusing on the languages of California, a parade of people holding signs saying the languages they are fluent in and students getting the opportunity to write "I appreciate and respect you" in their mother language – or any language they know.

"This was an attempt to recognize and appreciate this diversity. Dr. Stone felt like there was not sufficient empathy and for our department, in particular, we felt that to appreciate the diversity we need to first identify, describe and document it," Amir Sharifi, a linguistics and anthropology professor. "[International Mother Language Day] is the perfect day to do it."

Stone described how the idea to celebrate the day came to be.

"Last year there was this advertisement on campus for a play, and it was just racial slurs," he said. "It was just like, 'Do you want to make everyone on campus feel unsafe, unwelcome and uncomfortable?'"

In response to that, Stone said he wanted to put signs up where the first phrase people would learn from a language wouldn't be something derogatory.

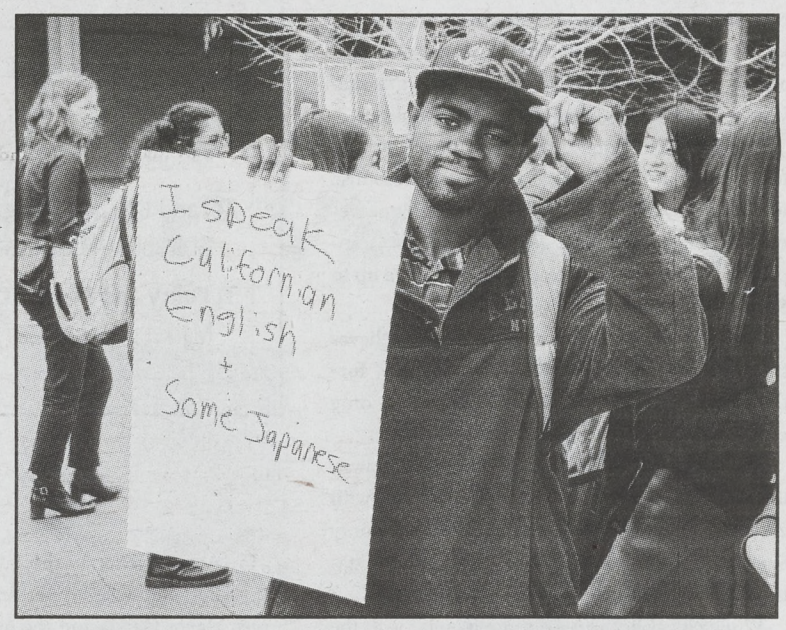
He said that a good amount of people on campus were not feeling respected or appreciated.

"What would it be like to smudge the campus in positivity and wipe it clean?" Stone said.

After writing on the language wall, students had the opportunity to be voice recorded saying "I appreciate and respect you" in the language they chose and placed on an app for the Department of Linguistics.

"Our goal is really to place these posters around campus, and each one of them shows you the language, and each poster has a QR code," Jaffe said. "You get a QR code reader from any app store, and when you scan it, it'll take you directly to a website where you hear an audio or see a video of the person saying the phrase in the language on the poster."

Jaffe also mentioned that this project is only the beginning for what they expect to be a very successful year for the Linguistics department, and Sharifi expects the International Mother Language Day to become an annual event for CSULB.



Stephen Oduntan | Daily 49er

Clifton Sutton, 23, Africana Studies major, at Tuesday's Mother Day Language event in front of the Psychology Quad building.

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PUBLIC TRANSIT

'I think I can,' get these passengers to work safely

Metro's light-rail train stations need community support, not local policing.

By Hanna Suarez
Opinions Editor

Since December of last year, City of Long Beach officials have been moving to implement local police officers to patrol Metro Blue Line Stations in the city. After being postponed, the vote for the motion will be taken this Thursday. But it continues to gain support amongst city leaders, including Mayor Robert Garcia.

According to a January article by the Press Telegram, Garcia has since been elected for a four-year term on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board — giving him greater influence over Long Beach's regional transit issues.

The improvement of Blue Line safety has definitely been a concern of not only Long Beach but also officials of greater Los Angeles for some time now. However, the main concern of the metro board and of police officers revolves around the improvement of security response times.

There needs to be a more proactive method to prevent crime on public transit so that daily commuters are not criminalized by the local infrastructure. Supporting vulnerable neighborhoods and residents who use the metro station ensure that people are supplied with tools for living, resources that prevent people from resorting to crime and violence.

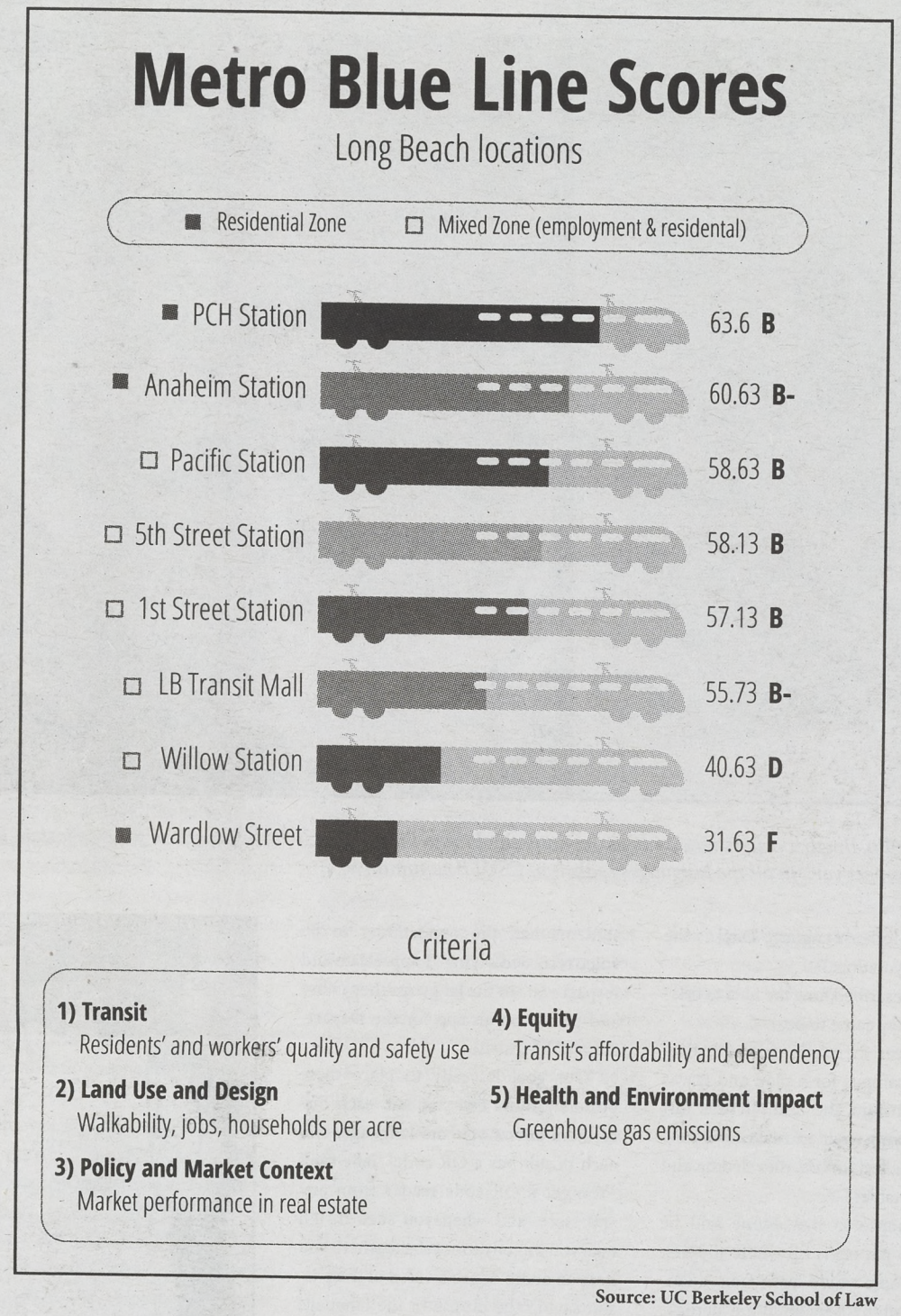
The Press Telegram also reports in a February follow-up that the proposal comes as a response to concern over passenger safety and the improvement of officer call time. If the agreement is approved by Metro, Long Beach would receive up to $27 million every year for police service.

Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna believes the increased policing will "improve visibility," furthermore, "that it will positively impact not only crime but also the quality of life."

Metro's Blue Line runs for 22 miles from downtown Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles, with 22 stations in between. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department currently patrols metro stations, according to The Press Telegram.

While city police may be more familiar with the people and the territory, this does not change the way that systematic poverty and discrimination continue to drastically affect areas in Long Beach which are not predominantly populated with middle class, white families or Cal State Long Beach students.

With eight stations in Long Beach, the train provides transportation for many commuters and working-class people – people who do not need to be further policed while trying to get to work, school, the grocery store.


Metro Blue Line Scores
Long Beach locations
Residential Zone
Mixed Zone (employment & residental)
PCH Station 63.6 B
Anaheim Station 60.63 B-
Pacific Station 58.63 B
5th Street Station 58.13 B
1st Street Station 57.13 B
LB Transit Mall 55.73 B-
Willow Station 40.63 D
Wardlow Street 31.63 F
Criteria
1) Transit
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2) Land Use and Design
Walkability, jobs, households per acre
3) Policy and Market Context
Market performance in real estate
4) Equity
Transit's affordability and dependency
5) Health and Environment Impact
Greenhouse gas emissions

Source: UC Berkeley School of Law

Infographic by Stephanie Hak

In an open letter to the Long Beach Post, local writer and CSULB alumnus Brian Addison urges Mayor Garcia and the metro board to push multi-agency policing of the Blue Line to finally ensure that Long Beach riders are safe in their commute.

He quotes an unnamed working class train-rider: "And when you keep saying the Blue Line is unsafe, what you're really saying is that those who depend upon it make it unsafe." The young man Addison spoke to maintained that the Los Angeles County Sheriff does not make him feel more safe, but rather that the Sheriff's presence was one more threatening and punishing.

With the new proposal, militant police force on Long Beach transit systems will merely be replaced by different cops, stuffed in local uniforms. Mayor Garcia himself stands to this solution, saying it would allow for Long Beach to "control their own destiny," according to The Press Telegram.

This reinforces Luna's stance: "No one can patrol or knows their city as well as their own local police department," as reported in the same article. Yes, the police are familiar with the territory.

However, their primary concern is crime and violence, not the substantial structural demands of disadvantaged communities.

The enhancement of safety on public transit is contingent to the improvement of the surrounding neighborhoods. Trains departing from downtown head north into low income communities often, with far fewer privileges.

KPCC and The Los Angeles Times report on a 2015 study done by the Center for Law, Energy and Environmental at UC Berkeley, which grades California trains and subways through a range of criteria.

While safety is part of the rating scale, other categories such as accessibility, walkability, affordability and transit-oriented development contributed to light-rail station grades.

According to the LA Times, Los Angeles County transit stations graded overwhelmingly average in California — with the highest ranking station in the county being MacArthur Park, a red line station; and the lowest grading station being Wardlow in Long Beach.

Lead author of the study, Ethan Elkind, offers that location plays a key role in the performance of low-grading stations. "[The station has] not stimulated any kind of development or neighborhood type activity around it. That's really the challenge of Wardlow and other stations that scored poorly," Elkind tells KPCC in the 2015 report.

Most Long Beach stations scored B level grades on average, With Wardlow and Willow éstops scoring F and D, respectively. As the tracks carry on north to Compton, the grades continue to drop.

Although safety was just one determining factor, and the study highlights high density places and how this affects the ridership, it is important to pay attention to the relationship between community development, neighborhood crime and how this affects the number of passengers.

If Long Beach residents deem the Blue Line unsafe, they won't ride; this negatively impacts not only TAP card sales but more importantly, limits the potential of positive impact the train may bring to communities.

Of course, the downfall to community development is it puts low-income neighborhoods at risk for gentrification — which increases costs of living and housing for long time residents, often leading to displacement.

But residents deserve to have resources they need to survive in their own community; the support of local business should not be reserved for quirky, "bohemian" communities in Long Beach's East Village, or Retro Row.

City decisions regarding public transit need to consider the well being of all Long Beach commuters, and how their livelihood is impacted by metro stations.

Allocating funds to the local police department might improve response times in emergency situations — but this is a short term solution to a long term problem.

Daily 49er

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

Long Beach State's Kyle Ensing (5) spikes the ball past Hawai'i opposite Stijn Van Tilburg (4) at the Long Beach State's win against Hawai'i Jan. 20.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Looking for another victory

Led by TJ DeFalco the Long Beach State men's volleyball team face the Cal Baptist Lancers.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

After a four-game road trip, the Long Beach State men's volleyball team will be back at Walter Pyramid to face Cal Baptist tonight at 7.

The 49ers went 4-0 while away, extending their winning streak to six.

In their most recent win, the 49ers (13-2, 6-1) swept No. 5 UCLA 25-20, 25-23, 25-22 on Saturday at UCLA. The win was an impressive match for LBSU as it not only won its sixth straight game, but it was also the 49ers sixth consecutive sweep.

It was another impressive showing from LBSU's All-American sophomores TJ DeFalco, Kyle Ensing and Josh Tuaniga – all of whom have continued to pace the 49ers' offense.

This year, DeFalco and Ensing lead LBSU in hits with 210 and 168 kills, respectively. Tuaniga has been the man with steady hands as he leads the team with 561 assists while averaging 11.69 sets per set, which is tops in the country.

With Tuaniga's performance, LBSU leads the nation in assists per set with 12.90.

Along with the trio of sophomores, senior libero Andrew Sato is making his case as one of the top liberos in the country with 131 digs.

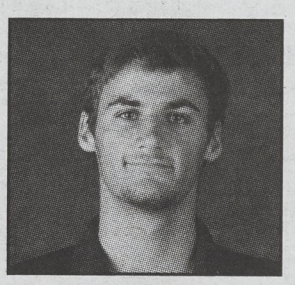
LBSU's senior middle blocker Amir Lugo-Rodriguez is also a catalyst for the 49ers' defense, as he ranks No. 2 in the country in blocks per set with 1.30. As a team, the 49ers rank fifth in the nation, averaging 2.48 blocks per set.

Cal Baptist (3-11) heads to Walter Pyramid after going 1-8 in its last nine matches since the 49ers beat the Lancers 25-18, 25-14, 19-25, 25-18.

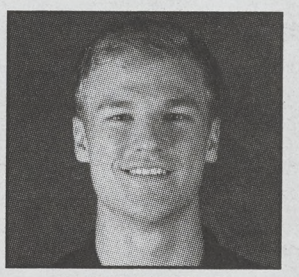
The Lancers' offense is led by senior outside hitter Luis Palos, who tops the team with 119 kills while sophomore setter Jacob Tarabetz has directed Cal Baptist's offense with 123 assists.

The 49ers will try to not overlook the Lancers with a match against USC looming at Walter Pyramid Friday.

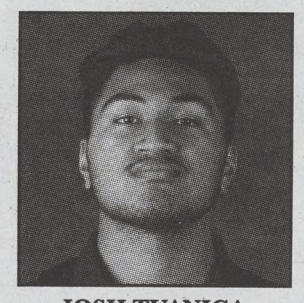
USC is one of two teams to defeat the 49ers this season.



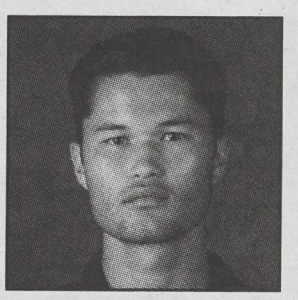
TJ DEFALCO
OUTSIDE HITTER



KYLE ENSING
OUTSIDE HITTER



JOSH TUANIGA
SETTER



ANDREW SATO
LIBERO

D49er SPORTS

Follow @49ERSPORTS for live tweeting of LBSU games.

Photos by Luke Ramirez | Daily 49er

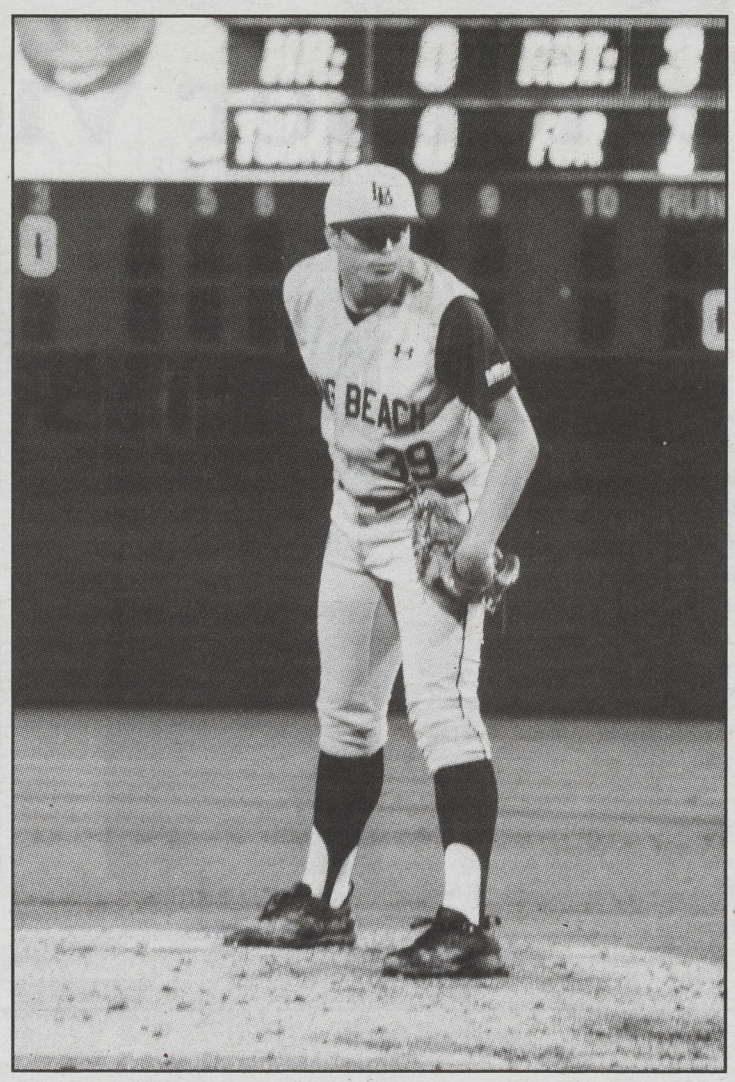
Long Beach State junior outfielder Tristan Mercadel tries to put a bunt down during the Dirtbags' 4-3, 11-inning loss to USC Tuesday.

BASEBALL

Late errors haunt LBSU in loss

Long Beach State Dritbags give up multiple leads to PAC-12 opponent USC at Dedeax Field Tuesday.

By Luke Ramirez
Staff Writer



Long Beach State's freshman pitcher John Castro pitched seven scoreless innings while striking out six batters Tuesday night.

LOS ANGELES — Tuesday night's game between Long Beach State and USC took the phrase "back and forth" to a whole new level. After two blown leads and 11 innings, the Dirtbags lost to USC 4-3.

The game was lost as USC's Frankie Rios delivered the walk-off single in the bottom of the 11th inning.

Freshman starter John Castro put LBSU in a great position to beat USC after throwing seven scoreless innings. Castro looked like a veteran in his first collegiate start, showing great command of his fastball, curveball and changeup.

The Dirtbags opened the scoring in the second inning, after sophomore Brooks Stotler hit a single with two outs to drive in junior designated hitter Luke Rasmussen.

In the fifth inning, the Dirtbags got to USC's junior starting pitcher Mason Perryman again once junior shortstop Markus Montelongo was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning.

Montelongo came around to score from first base after senior first baseman Daniel Jackson crushed a double over the left fielder David Edson's head to take a 2-0 lead.

Castro got better as the game went on as he was able to utilize his curveball in any count to keep the USC hitters off balance and prevent them from getting any sort of rally going.

Castro's final line was 7IP, 6H, 0R, 6K, 0BB. The freshman starter certainly made his case to potentially become a part of the weekend rotation in the future.

In the bottom of the eighth, Buckley brought in another freshman in Connor Riley, who gave up a leadoff single but retired the next two Trojan hitters.

That brought USC's sophomore center fielder Lars Nootbaar who was 2-for-3 at that point. With a runner on second, LBSU brought in freshman left-handed pitcher Zak Baayoun for the favorable lefty vs. lefty matchup.

Nootbaar crushed a homerun over the right field fence to tie the game at 2.

The Dirtbags answered the game-tying blow with a one out double from junior right fielder Brock Lundquist in the top of the ninth. Lundquist made a heads-up baserunning play, taking third base on a pitch in the dirt from USC freshman relief pitcher Austin Manning.

The next batter was Rasmussen, who hit a deep fly ball to center field and brought home the big go-ahead run.

Senior Josh Advocate was brought in to end the eighth inning and remained on the mound for the bottom of the ninth. Advocate surrendered a leadoff single and a two-out walk, which gave the Trojans the tying run on third and the winning run on first.

The Trojans tied the game again after LBSU catcher David Banuelos attempted to throw out the runner stealing second — but the throw sailed into center field after no one covered the bag.

Advocate ended the bottom of the ninth with a strikeout and the fans on hand at Dedeaux Field were treated to some free baseball as the game headed into extra innings.

In the bottom of the eleventh, junior defensive replacement Joey Sanchez dropped an easy pop-up into center field to lead off the inning. From there, sophomore pitcher Chris Rivera had to intentionally walk two batters to load the bases and set up a force out at home plate.

Rivera struck out two Trojans, but gave up the walk off single to USC junior shortstop Frankie Rios.

LBSU top offensive performer was Stotler, who finished 2 for 4 with one RBI.

After losing two straight games the Dirtbags will look to get back in the win column when they host Fordham at Blair Field for a weekend series starting Friday night.

BASEBALL UPCOMING GAMES:

LB vs. F
When: Friday, 7 p.m.
Where: Blair Field

LB vs. F
When: Saturday, 2 p.m.
Where: Blair Field

LB vs. F
When: Sunday, 1 p.m.
Where: Walter Pyramid

LB vs. SD
When: Feb. 28, 7 p.m.
Where: Blair Field

LB vs. UNC
When: March 3, 7 p.m.
Where: Chapel Hill

LB vs. UNC
When: March 3, Noon
Where: Chapel Hill

LB vs. UNC
When: March 4, 11 a.m.
Where: Chapel Hill

LB vs. ASU
When: March 5, 9 a.m.
Where: Chapel Hill

LB vs. ASU
When: March 10, 6 p.m.
Where: Phoenix

LB vs. ASU
When: March 11, 7 p.m.
Where: Phoenix